



JAN., 1946

VOL. IV, NO. III

LIBRARY LOOKOUT

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Issued Quarterly by the West Virginia
Library Commission
Dora Ruth Parks, Executive Secretary

January, 1946

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DEMONSTRATION BOOKMOBILE FOR THE COMMISSION

Last issue of Library Lookout invited all organizations of the state to participate in the purchase of a demonstration bookmobile for the Commission. At that time the fund totaled \$475. Since then the Morgantown Chapter of the American Association of University Women contributed \$25 and the State Federation of Women's Clubs donated \$100. We are on our way, but we are not there yet! We have about half enough money to buy a bookmobile.

Seventy-two per cent of West Virginia's population is rural. Bookmobiles afford the most effective means of getting library service to rural people. Has the matter of participating in the purchase of a demonstration bookmobile for the Commission been discussed by your organization?

LIBRARY COMMISSION NEWS

Comparative statistics show increased use of the Library Commission book collection, emphasize the Commission's need for more facilities for demonstration purposes and prove an awakening of West Virginians to the desire for good reading. Individual loans are nine times the number they were two years ago. Traveling libraries have shown a rather consistent increase over the same period. Total books loaned by the Commission in this type of service has increased by 100% over the number of books loaned two years ago.

This is what our borrowers say:

Robertsburg--"I am enclosing postage for the books on International Relations that I used..."

"I would like to have the Russian photographs so that we can plan our part of the program around them. I would also like some books on rural life in Europe. I am speaking to the Kanawha County clubs in October..."

Morgantown--"Do you have any illustrated books on hymns and the stories of how they came to be written?..."

"If you do not have the book on hymns, perhaps you could send something on our folk songs and music."

Lewisburg--"Will we not receive the larger Traveling Library of 200 books? We liked this plan very much of getting this larger number for a longer period of time..." (They did get them)

"Do you have any books of games for grown ups'? We need one or two."

"Do you have some material available on the racial situation?"

"I have some current magazines but thought you might know of something that would be helpful."

"The children are still talking about the Story Hour and of the splendid time they had this summer. One family had four attending--they were present a total of thirty times. Each child took a book home and the grandmother read each book to them--so one's arithmetic works wonders with the number of books these children enjoyed this summer."

Kaylong--Request for material on: "The Japanese Problem in the United States."

Elkins--"The Farm Women's Clubs of Randolph County wish to thank you for the interesting books that you sent them for their International Women's Program."

"Because of your interest, a brief report on the program follows:

"The original idea came from a state suggestion. In the County, a committee from the Council was selected to work out a plan. Each club was contacted by the Home Demonstration Agent. The idea was presented and the group asked to select the country that they would like to study. The committee then selected the books from

the booklist sent by the Commission Library and the Extension Library.

"These books were received in the County Office, then delivered or sent by mail to the clubs. Each club selected a person from their group, well qualified to give a book report.

"The reports were interesting and enjoyable. One club combined the book report on Mexico with a very interesting Mexican exhibit that a member displayed.

"This project gave the women a broader understanding of women of other Countries. Several clubs were interested because their sons have married girls from the country studied.

"Again thanking you for your interest and cooperation..."

Clarksburg Public Library*--"Please send us some books on soil conservation for a special conference on the subject to be held here the first week in October. I would like to have a copy of Bromfield's Pleasant Valley, if it is available for the purpose. We have Faulkner, E. H., Plowman's Folly and Gabrielson, I. N., Wildlife Conservation and we do not need a second copy of these titles."

*This request was considered as especially important because of the strip mining in the Clarksburg area.

Hellis--"I am serving as the minister's assistant and director of religious education. Together with a few responsible women of the church, I will assume responsibility for the books while here."

Romney--"What books on child psychology have you available at this time? I am very anxious to get a book that would deal with a very young child."

New Haven--"Do you have any information about Day Nurseries which you would send me?"

Moundsville--"We are highly pleased with the first shipment of books, particularly the children's books..."

Glady--"I am writing to request a selection of adult books for our membership of the Glady Parent-Teacher Association. Last year our membership greatly enjoyed reading the books we received from your library and feel that we should like to have another selection. We are all very glad to be able to enjoy this opportunity to have access to a lending library such as this affords to the rural communities."

Napier--"Please send the following books which I have selected from the list you sent:

Class.	Author	Book
308.1	Roosevelt	The American Way
940.5314	Fleisher	What to do with Japan
940.5342	Pyle	Ernie Pyle in England

"At a later date I would like to read Undercover and Your Kids and Mine, if you have them."

Raleigh County--"What are the plans for a state-sponsored Bookmobile and, if possible, how does our county go about participating in this program? Please advise at your earliest convenience."

FARM WOMEN'S COUNCIL

The education committee of the Farm Women's Council made the following recommendations for this year:

Library Service for Rural People

Long time goals:

County-wide library service in every county.

Library books in these libraries suited to the needs of rural women.

County Committee Activities:

- (a) Cooperate with other agencies in the promotion of a county library program through use of the new library law.
- (b) Cooperate with the state committee in their plans for securing equalized library service for all counties through state aid.

AMONG WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS

Marion County - "Establishment of a vocational and occupational guidance center by the Public Library of Marion County has been announced by Mrs. W. H. Conaway, Librarian.

"The center, made possible by the contributions of the local Business and Professional Women's Club is for civilians, men and women veterans of World War II, and high school students.

"A special collection of books covering the various phases of business--supervision, salesmanship, and business administration-is available through a loan from the West Virginia Library Commission.

"In addition to the books donated by the Business and Professional Women's Club covering the many varied occupations and vocations, magazines, bulletins, and pamphlets containing related information may be found. An SRA Vocational Information Kit from the Scientific Research Association, 228 Wabash Avenue, Chicago 4, Illinois, has been placed on file. It serves its users as the framework for an expanding library of pamphlet materials on occupational guidance subjects.

"The entire center is not completed as up-to-date materials will be added from time to time. Vocational Trends Magazine is always on file.

McDowell County - On November 2, a group of thirty interested citizens organized a committee representing all parts of the county to make a study of county library organization.

Brooke County - At a meeting on November 14, a similar committee was appointed in Brooke County.

Marshall County - On November 27, the Moundsville Public library celebrated its formal reopening. Members of the board and the librarians have been busy since October "weeding" and rearranging the collection, painting, rearranging furniture, and planning a front window for exhibits.

Members of the Library Commission staff made recommendations and a collection of books was loaned from the Commission to replace some of the discarded titles.

Monroe County - American Library Association Institutional Libraries News Letter includes the following note from West Virginia. "Miss Sara Lewis, librarian from the Federal Correctional Institution at Seagoville, Texas, has spent the summer at the Federal Reformatory for Women, Alderson, where she has supervised the library work and has trained inmate assistants. About 200 new books have been put on the shelves during the summer and more books are being ordered."

Wheeling - The October issue of Library Lookout announced the purchase of a series of broadcast recordings for use by Public Libraries of the state. The following

paragraphs from a letter from Miss Nancy Matthews, Children's Librarian, Ohio County Public Library indicates the stories are going over in a big way.

"Now, as for what we actually did to promote the programs. First, cooperation was received from the local Dental Association-- the plan having been presented to them at their November meeting. The nature of the programs, or rather the announcements pertaining to dental hygiene, seemed to almost demand this...

"A newspaper article appeared in the Sunday preceding the first program, and 300 post cards were sent to teachers, leaders of Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, PTA presidents, public and parochial teachers, etc. Then, a talk with the superintendent of elementary schools resulted in a very attractive advance announcement being mimeographed and sent to every teacher in the first eight grades of the entire county. I am enclosing a copy."

Advance announcement included this statement:

"THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAMS IS TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING INTEREST IN A BETTER TYPE RADIO PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN AND TO CREATE A DESIRE ON THE CHILDREN'S PART TO ACQUAINT THEMSELVES WITH BETTER READING MATERIAL."

The recordings are scheduled for Clarksburg in June. Who'll be the next to use them? They are free to all Public

libraries. The only cost is postage to and from your library.

Welcome Home! West Virginia librarians are happy to have two members of the profession with us again after a period of military service.

Mr. Fleming Bennett returned to the University Library Staff as Assistant Reference Librarian. on November 1.

Mr. Charles Eutler returned to his position as librarian of the Kanawha County Public Library on December 1.

KNOW WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

The library building at Buckhannon is one of West Virginia's most outstanding examples of an attractive small library building. (See cover).

The history of the library was submitted by Mr. Thomas W. Haught, Chairman of the Library Board.

"In the year 1925, the local Lions Club, looking for a project worthy of their effort, decided to sponsor a public library in the city. They rented a room on the first floor of the Upshur Building, then went out and canvassed the citizens for books and, perhaps, other material needed to inaugurate the enterprise. The club secured funds for all the necessary expenses of the undertaking.

"The enterprise flourished, and the room, they had secured, becoming too small for their needs, they exchanged it for a larger one on the second floor of the same building. After a comparatively short while it became evident that they needed still larger quarters and better access for the patrons of the library. The next step was to secure quarters in the Court House basement with a direct entrance from the outside. Here the library remained serving the public till early in the present decade.

"The community was becoming library conscious.

"While the Library was being sponsored by the Lions Club, its sources of support were voluntary contributions, but it received its main financial support from the Club. During the same time, four persons, in turn, served as librarian-- Miss Grace King, Miss Virginia Ours, Mrs. R. Ray Scott, and Miss Grace Arnold.

"The second chapter of the history of Buckhannon's Public Library begins with the death of Mrs. Charles W. Gibson on the last day of the year 1939, when her will was found to contain a provision bequeathing to the City the bulk of her estate for a library as a memorial to her late husband. Hence, the name of THE CHARLES W. GIBSON LIBRARY. Ten thousand dollars of the estate went into the building fund, and the rest, about twenty-five thousand, into endowment.

"The income from the endowment is supplemented by a levy and by voluntary contributions. In a recent campaign for funds the voluntary contributions amounted to more than the income from both the other sources.

"The new building is made of concrete and brick. It stands upon ground donated by the City, and it was built, in part, with WPA labor. It represents a value of probably, twenty thousand dollars.

"The Library property is located between East Main and Sedwick Streets, and near their oblique junction. It fronts on Lightburn Street. It thus extends to streets on three sides.

"As the new library organization took over, the Lions Club made a legal transfer to it of the Club's library interests and material. The Club continues to show keen interest in the success of the Library."

WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MEETING

By Florence K. Reese

The West Virginia Library Association held its annual meeting in Charleston, November 9-10, 1945. Better library service was the central theme.

William P. Kellam presided at the evening session and introduced Fleming Bennett, who spoke on the use of films as a part of library service and the services available

through the West Virginia University Film Library. Miss Dora Ruth Parks, executive secretary of the West Virginia Library Commission, gave pertinent statistics showing the status of public libraries in West Virginia and explained the operations of the County Library as a means of extending service. A film portraying the work of the Hunterdon County, New Jersey Public Library was shown.

The Saturday morning program emphasized the school library. A. J. Gibson, state supervisor of high schools in this state, presented a picture of school library activities in West Virginia, gave methods used in furthering the integration of the work of the teacher and the librarian. He spoke of the new North Central Association Standards and how they would affect school librarians. Miss Genevieve Gibson, librarian of Huntington East High School, gave a historical background of school library development and spoke of the future of school libraries in this state viewed from the angle of the school librarian. A lively discussion followed.

Luncheon was served to members of the Association and friends at the Catholic High School. At the business meeting, which followed, action was taken by the Association to approve the appointment of three committees--one for college, one for school, and a third for public libraries--these committees were to work out more effective methods of integrating the work of the respective libraries.

with their constituencies and to make a study of library problems such as finance, personnel, and other matters of importance to West Virginia libraries and librarians. Officers elected for the ensuing year were: President, Eleanor Hamilton, Ohio County Library; Vice-President, Rosa Oliver, Marshall College; Secretary, Mrs. Edith Dobbs, Madison School, Wheeling; Treasurer, Carrie Brittain, Davis-Elkins College.

Members of the Association were guests at a nicely appointed tea given by the staff and members of the board of the Kanawha County Public Library.

HAVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS BEEN BROUGHT
TO YOUR ATTENTION?

1. Annual reports in the American Library Association Bulletin, October 15, 1945, indicate West Virginia still ranks forty-sixth in the United States in the number of people with public library service.

2. National Opinion Research Center Survey conducted in cooperation with the American Library Association:

"Most of the replies indicate that the people in these seventeen cities (surveyed) realize that their public libraries are supported in part, at least, by taxes with city taxes named most often. A number speak of taxes or public funds in general

without mentioning any unit of government. A few think that their local public libraries secure funds from county, state, or federal taxes. Others answer 'gift,' 'donation,' 'endowments,' or 'charity.' Many cite more than one source of financial support.

"To find out what people know about library finances in their various cities, NORC asked:

'As far as you know, does the public library in this city have as much money as it needs, or does it need more?'

Don't know	63%
Needs more	24
Has enough	13
	100%

"Persons in all walks of life indicate a definite lack of information about the financing of public libraries."

3. "Marion Horton. Buying List of Books for Small Libraries. * 7th edition. American Library Association, 1945. 150 p. \$2.25.

"This is a basic list of 1,800 titles, most of them published since 1940, that are likely to be of continuing interest and usefulness. The list is for the established as well as the new small library or branch, and for the readers' adviser and the general reader.

*May be borrowed from the West Virginia Library Commission, Morgantown.

"For those who are unable to examine books before buying and who cannot afford expensive bibliographic aids, the new seventh edition is an especially valuable tool."

4. "Pointers for Public Library Building Planners, by Russell J. Schunk.* Chicago, American Library Association, 1945. \$1.25.

This book will be of use to many West Virginia Communities.

In one library recently visited by the Executive Secretary a poster to this effect was on the front bulletin board: "What do you think would be a suitable war memorial? Register your opinion. Name and address will be appreciated." This town was working for a new library building.

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BOOKMOBILES MAKE GOOD MEMORIALS TOO. ONE SUITABLE FOR USE IN WEST VIRGINIA CAN BE PURCHASED FOR \$1200. WRITE THE WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY COMMISSION, MORGANTOWN FOR SUGGESTIONS AND PLANS.

GIVE A BOOKMOBILE TO THE WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY COMMISSION FOR DEMONSTRATION PURPOSES!

* * * * *

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* * * * *

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5. "The nominations for citation of Trustees must be in not later than March 1, 1946, and preferably earlier. Mrs. Philip Sidney Smith, the new Chairman, of the ALA Jury on Citation of Trustees announces that the Committee wishes recommendations for the annual citation of Trustees for the year 1945-46. These recommendations, with supporting evidence, should be sent to Jury on Citation of Trustees, ALA Headquarters, 520 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago (11), Illinois..."

"Those who may send in names to be considered are Library Boards, Individual Library Trustees, State Library Extension Agencies, State Library Associations or the ALA Trustees Division.

"The work of Trustees of large and small libraries to state and national library activities as well as service to the local library are given equal study and consideration.

"The only limitation put upon those to be nominated is that each Trustee must be in actual service at least part of the calendar year preceding the conference at which awards are made..."

6. Ideas for Library Personnel. The Library Commission is subscribing for a limited number of these leaflets. If you are interested in receiving them once a month, please send thirty-six cents in stamps to the West Virginia Library Commission to cover mailing cost

for one year or three cents per month.
a quote from some of the leaflets:

"During the war, when every effort was turned toward victory, there was a good deal of talk about 'morale.' One remembered advertisement assured you that 'morale is made up of little things.'

"There's this matter of graciousness on the part of library staff members, for instance. That's a little thing. A librarian could be a great librarian and not be gracious. A genius could be rude.

"One of the most interesting phases of any librarian's life is handling different types of persons--it is also one of the most profitable.

"For in the final analysis the success of every librarian is determined by the opinions which others have of him and his work--not just the opinion of his friends but of everyone--cranks included!

"Thirty years ago, Gelett Burgess, then a young New York author, wrote an essay which asked a question--'Have you an educated heart?'"

"Mr. Burgess pleads for going farther than is necessary in one's dealings with others--good advice for a library staff member.

"Everything can be done beautifully by the educated heart, from the lacing

of a shoe so that it won't come loose to passing the salt before it is asked for," he says.

"And the secret of an educated heart? It's learning to put yourself in another's place and to think his thoughts.

"An educated heart on a library staff is worth its weight in gold. Have one."

A TRIBUTE

Most of us start the New Year with some sort of resolutions. The Library Commission wishes to start this New Year with a tribute to the Public Librarians of the state, many of whom could show Mr. Burgess a thing or two about "an educated heart. Their courage through the years has demonstrated to their patrons and communities a faith in the ultimate goals of the public library. It's the little things which go into a librarian's job which add up to the big objectives. Because they keep their perspective, librarians know it is not important to enumerate the number of pockets they pasted last month; but everytime a question is answered, whether it be tangible enough for publication or not, the librarian knows she has moved a step further toward good library service for the community.

Here's to the public librarians of West Virginia.

MORE POWER TO THEM!

REPORT ON LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT FUND

Mr. Howard spoke at the mid-winter meeting of the American Library Association in Chicago, December 27-30. He is the director of the Association's "Federal Relations Program" which is made possible by the Library Development Fund.

The "Program for Action" by the American Library Association Federal Relations Committee is as follows:

"The primary purpose of the AIA National Relations Office is to advance and protect the interests of libraries and of the people who use libraries, insofar as those interests may be helped or hurt by legislation, regulation, or other government action.

"The program of activities must at all times remain flexible, because the office will have to concern itself much of the time with the library implications of proposals made by others without due recognition of those implications.

"One principle will, however, control all action. The ALA, through this office, will seek no advantage for itself, no special privileges for its members; it will work for the improvement of libraries as agencies for the dissemination of information, the diffusion and advancement of knowledge, and the extension of library service to all of the people of the United States."

Important planks now in the Association's platform are:

1. Disposal of surplus property to educational agencies, including libraries with such priorities and special price concessions as are specifically provided for in the Surplus Property Act (Public Law 457).

2. Transfer of surplus Army and Navy library books (if there is any surplus) to the states for use primarily in extending library service to the rural areas.

3. Recognition by government of the essentiality of library materials and service in any research program.

4. Inclusion of library employees in federal social security.

5. Adequate provision for libraries in any public works proposals which may be advanced.

6. Maintenance of low postal rates on books shipped to or by libraries.

7. Federal aid for demonstrations of public library service as a first step toward federal assistance in the establishment, maintenance, improvement, and equalization of library service for all of the population.

8. An improved program of document distribution which will recognize libraries as primary outlets for the dissemination of information and as the best repositories for reference and research materials.

Even though the state goal has been met, the national association has a long way to go to meet its goal. Have you given four per cent of your salary for one month for library development?

Contributions should be mailed to:

Mr. W. P. Kellam, Director
Library Development Fund
University Library
Morgantown, West Virginia

Mr. Kellam makes the following report on pledges:

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT FUND

JANUARY 1, 1946

TYPE OF DONOR	NUMBER	AMOUNT PLEDGED	GOAL
Individuals	60	\$510.25	
Libraries	5	80.00	
Organizations	4	25.00	
Total	69	\$615.25	\$600.00